38. Al-Hafiz
(The Preserver)

"Allah preserves what you entrust to Him. Entrust Him with your heart, and He will preserve it from corruption."

- Al-Junayd of Baghdad (830-910 CE)
Source: Al-Sarraj's "Kitab al-Luma'"
(The Book of Flashes)

Anyone who recites this Name of Allah daily and keeps a written copy of it with him, Allah will protect him against all hazards, losses and harmful things, Insha Allah - Al Hisnul Hasin

BI'ISMIHI TA'AALA

Asmaa ul Husna

—

The Most Beautiful Names of Allah ﷻ

Ml.Moosa Kajee

AL-HAFEEZ ﷻ (THE PROTECTOR ﷻ)

Al-Hafeez ﷻ is that Being who protects His slaves from the causes of destruction in worldly and religious matters. He ﷻ is the Protector over all His creation. Only He ﷻ can protect them from any such calamity which has unexpectedly arrived, or which is expected.

Undeniably, only that can remain protected which Allaah ﷻ protects. If Allaah ﷻ decides to protect something, then it will remain so. if He ﷻ decides to destroy something, then none can repel His decision.
Allaah ﷻ states in the Quraan Kareem,

فَاللّٰهُ خَيْرٌ حَافِظًا وَهُوَ أَرْحَمُ الرَّاحِمِينَ

And Allaah is the Greatest Protector, and He is the Most Merciful of those who show mercy. (Yusuf)

Allah's quality of protection is manifest in different ways:
1.) Allaah ﷻ has taken the responsibility to protect His Honourable Book (the Qur'an) from change, interpolation, and alteration; together with the vicissitudes of times. Allaahﷻ says,

اِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَ اِنَّا لَه لَحَافِظُوْنَ

Verily We have revealed the Dhikr (this advice) and verily We are its Protector. (Hijr)

Therefore, the Qur'aan remains protected as Allaah ﷻ has mentioned. In spite of such a lengthy era having passed, Al-Hafeez ﷻ has protected it; and this is one of the clear and visible signs of Allaah ﷻ to man, showing the truthfulness of His promises.

A black era in history passed over the Muslims which was full of trials and tribulations, in which there existed an abundance of innovaters and people who followed their base desires. They added different types of new things to Islaam and attributed many false statements to Nabi ﷺ.

Despite this, not one of them was able to make any alterations to the Qur'aan, so much so that even one letter could not be altered. The Qur'aan remained in its original condition and continues to do so. The verses of the Qur'aan remain today as they were revealed to Nabi ﷺ. The libraries of the world are completely helpless in bringing another book the like thereof, which has come down 1400 years ago with the exact same words, letters and diacritical points.

2.) Amongst these signs is the Ka'bah. It is a house made of stone in such a valley which yields no produce. There is none there to protect it from enemies, nor are there any gardens or things which will entice people towards it. Thus, there is no outward form of inclination or awe in it. In spite of this, Al-Hafeez ﷻ protects it by placing its awe and greatness in the hearts of people. Whoever comes to it, comes to it submissively and completely humble. He ﷻ has placed in it such an attraction and love that people come to it from all corners of the world with love and fervour, not entertaining any worldly motives. This has continued for thousands of years. This quality is not found in any other building in the world. Kings build magnificent palaces which remain for a period and then are destroyed. No one then goes to see its foundations or ruins, nor does anyone fear its destruction.

3.) Allaah ﷻ protects the actions of His servants and does not let any action go to waste, nor is any action hidden from him, be it small or big. On the day of Qiyamah, Allaah ﷻ will grant its recompense completely. If a person had performed noble actions, then he will receive a good recompense, and if he had perpetrated evil, then he will receive an evil recompense. Allaah ﷻ does not forget any action even though people forget. Allaahﷻ says, **"**And Allaah counts all their actions and they forget." (Mujaadalah)

4.) There are strange and wondrous ways of protection from the side of Al-Hafeez ﷻ. Every person is forced to admit that there is someone protecting us with regards to our worldly matters and our spirituality. We think that the police, guards, our relatives or neighbours protect our lives and wealth; however in reality, this is not the case. Protection is only from Al-Hafeez ﷻ. As soon as He ﷻ lifts His protection, thieves come and steal wealth and murderers kill, no matter how many defensive guards and watchmen there are.

How many great kings have passed who (sitting in fortified palaces) were killed by their own guards? These were those same guards who protected them for many years with great effort and love, even risking their own lives. Then what led to these guards becoming their murderers?

How do kind servants become killers? How can a father, whose blood and water gives rise to a small seed and he nurtures it making it into a strong person, thereafter destroy the child of his?

Where has his day-and-night protection, love and affection gone?

This shows that behind them, there is another power working. When this power is removed, all else becomes worthless, and a person destroys all his past efforts.

5.) Al-Hafeez ﷻ, with extreme care, protects the chicken inside the egg and the child inside the mother's womb in such a way that one is forced to accept that He ﷻ is the greatest Protector and the Protector of all. What a life of ease and protection a chick and baby live in the egg and womb respectively, that they regard this place as a spacious world. Food is attained here, they move about, and they take benefit from blood, water, moisture and the wind. Then, with great affection, they emerge into the world at their appointed times. Thereafter, their parents as well as the light of the sun and the moon begin protecting them. They serve them, nourish them and take care of their comfort and food. If Al-Hafeez ﷻ does not protect them for even a second, then how can they ever prosper?

6.) One weak seed cleaves through the breast of hard ground and comes out. Inside the ground, Al-Hafeez ﷻ has protected it, saved it from destruction, and then granted this feeble object such power that it could cleave itself and surface on the bosom of this hard ground. The light of the sun and moon protect and nurture this feeble creation until it becomes a stout tree. It prospers and exhibits a commanding stature.

7.) He ﷻ protects countless creations inside shells in the depths of oceans. As soon as Heﷻ lifts up His protection from any creation, it perishes. With what perfection does He ﷻnot protect the sperm of the male in the egg cells, until Heﷻ makes it strong? On land, rocks, in fire and in water, He ﷻ protects countless creations day and night.

8.) He ﷻ has wonderful and strange ways of protection. He ﷻ made Moosa عليه السلام grow up in the house of the enemy of Bani Israeel, namely Firaun. Wild animals are made to look after the children of human beings. A few years ago, a person was placed in a Lucknow hospital for treatment, who had been taken away in his infancy by animals to consume. However, due to Allaahﷻ's protection, these animals began nurturing him until he became a young man.

9.) Al-Hafeezﷻ's protection encompasses every atom and leaf of the heavens and the earth. He ﷻ protects the core of the fruit with a hard cover and He ﷻ protects the freshness of plants with moisture. He ﷻ protects those fruits which cannot only be protected by outer-skin, with thorns, which grow with it, so that it can protect it from some destructive living beings. Thorns act as weapons of plants just as the weapons of animals are their horns, beaks and claws. In fact in every drop of water are means of its protection which protect it from the winds blowing.